



*Shaw*

**THE UNITED STATES OF PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Couillais, et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/691,921  
Filed : October 23, 2003  
Title : SELF-ATTACHING FEMALE FASTENER ELEMENT AND  
METHOD OF ATTACHMENT  
Grp./A.U. : 3679  
Docket No. : 60,152-990

---

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 97 and in compliance with Rule 56, Applicants submit herewith the items listed on the attached Form PTO-SB08 and hereby requests that the Office consider them in its consideration of the above-referenced application and make them of record in the case. Copies of the listed items are enclosed. In accordance with 37 CFR § 97(e), Applicants hereby certify that each item contained herein was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office (PCT International Search Authority) in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Applicants believe that no fee is due notwithstanding the fact that this document is being filed more than three (3) months after filing the application. However, should there be a fee associated with this document, please charge it to Deposit Account No. 08-2789. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

May 18, 2004

Date

  
**Greg D. DeGrazia, Registration No. 48,944**  
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101  
39400 Woodward Ave.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151  
(248) 723-0325

Enclosures:

PTO-SB08 w/ 5 Cited References



### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 18, 2004.

Sandra Barry  
Sandra L. Barry



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

~~Sub~~stitute for form 1449A/PTO

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

---

### Shee

of 2

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/691,921
				Filing Date	October 23, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Couillais, et al.
				Art Unit	3679
				Examiner Name	unknown
				Attorney Docket Number	60,152-990
Sheet	1	of	2		

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Te
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		GB 978,604	12/23/64	Hayden		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinda Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

citation designation number (optional).<sup>3</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.  
<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).<sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible.<sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFT 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				Application Number	10/691,921
				Filing Date	October 12, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Couillaïs, et al.
				Art Unit	3679
				Examiner Name	unknown
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Attorney Docket Number	60,152-990
Sheet	2	of	2		

## NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.